

Act of 2005, authored by our good friend Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER who we welcomed as a witness at the hearing, the provision of affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries is a legislative component of our country's foreign assistance programs.

I have learned that the lack of access can be addressed by relatively simple means by an amazingly few but deeply committed people. I learned this first-hand when I was in Uganda last year and met Robert Wright from Living Waters International. I often emphasize the importance of faith-based organizations in meeting the global health needs of the world, and Living Waters is a Christian ministry that implements water development through training, equipping and consulting. Robert was living a comfortable life in my home state of New Jersey when he decided to move himself and his family to the remote regions of Uganda to assist the poor. He went to a school operated by Living Waters to learn how to drill a well to provide water for the hospital he was building. Although he was suffering from a bout of malaria, he drove several hours to Kampala to inform our delegation of the work of Living Waters and to press the need for water for the peoples of Africa. Therefore, I was particularly pleased to welcome Mr. Malcolm Morris, the chairman of Millennium Water Alliance, which represents a number of partners including Living Water International, who informed the Subcommittee of the work being done by faith-based organizations on this issue.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MR. FRANKIE CRUZ, MS. JADE CRUZ, AND MR. CHRISTOPHER CRUZ

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to SFC (Ret.) Frankie Salas Cruz for his service to his community. I commend the United States Army on Fort Hood for dedicating a Family Readiness building in honor of Sergeant Frankie Cruz. Sergeant Cruz and his 2 children, Jade Christine, and Christopher Frankie, tragically passed away on February 14, 2007 after a terrible car accident.

Sergeant Cruz was born on September 20, 1958 in Tamuning, Guam, the loving son of Juan Camacho and Luisa Borja Cruz. Sergeant Cruz was dedicated to public service from his earliest years. Many fondly remember his service as a Scoutmaster for Troop 200 and to the First Baptist Church of Lampasas, Texas. After graduating from Guam Vocational-Technical High School, he completed his Associates Degree from the University of Maryland in 1984.

During college, Sergeant Cruz, began his distinguished service to the Nation. He completed 3 years of Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, leadership training then enlisted in the U.S. Army. He retired from the Army after 22 years of honorable and faithful service to our Nation. Most notably, Sergeant Cruz served our Nation honorably during the First Gulf War in 1991 and, most recently, in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

It is only appropriate that the Army name this facility after Sergeant Cruz to honor his 22 years of dedicated service. Employees and friends throughout his career note Sergeant Cruz's "can do" attitude with every project or task he was assigned. In fact, at the time of his passing, Sergeant Cruz had embarked as team lead for a \$39 million base building rehabilitation project. The respect and admiration everyone had for Sergeant Cruz will be eternally memorialized at this building on Fort Hood.

Sergeant Cruz's daughter Jade, and son Christopher, will also be remembered fondly. Jade was born on April 12, 1988 in Fort Eustis, Virginia. Her beauty, energy and vitality were just some of the attributes that made her an accomplished athlete and cheerleader. Beyond her athletic prowess, Jade took her academics seriously and was a student at Central Texas College at the time of her passing.

Christopher was born on September 7, 1989 in Fort Eustis, Virginia. Christopher will be remembered as an accomplished scholar and member of the Junior National Honor Society. Like many other in his generation, Christopher volunteered many of his hours toward various goodwill projects. Also, much like his father, he was a highly decorated Boy Scout earning the highest rank of Eagle Scout. Christopher's talents also transcended into music. He was the drum major in the Lampasas Marching Band and played the saxophone in the high school jazz band.

The tremendous accomplishments of Jade and Christopher are reflective of their father's love, care and passion for his children. Learning of these accomplishments makes their passing even more difficult to bear. I take solace in that the memory of their love, passion and hard work will always be on display for the Fort Hood community.

I join the people of Guam and the Fort Hood community in mourning the passing of Sergeant Frankie Cruz and his children, Jade and Christopher. I offer my condolences to their wife and mother, Mrs. Linda Cruz, Sergeant Cruz's other sons and their extended family. I thank Sergeant Cruz for his admirable service to our Nation in times of great difficulty and to the support his children provided. The Cruz family can all be proud of their family's achievements and strength.

CELEBRATING 100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. LILLIAN BIJOU (THORTON) REVORD

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent who has led a remarkable life. On Sunday, Mrs. Revord's family and friends will come together to celebrate and observe her 100th birthday, celebrating the rich life of Mrs. Lillian Bijou (Thorton) Revord.

Over the course of her life, Mrs. Revord has truly seen the history of northern Michigan unfold before her, while she herself led a life rich in experience. As a child, Mrs. Revord attended the Methodist Church in Morristown, Michigan. The church has now been removed as an historical site to Grayling, Michigan, but the church gave her a strong anchor of faith to guide her.

In the spring of 1918, Mrs. Revord first moved north to Michigan's Upper Peninsula, U.P., specifically, Grand Island in Alger County. While young Lillian was just 12 years old on Grand Island, her father worked as a teamster for a logging company and her mother did the camp's laundry and cooking. In the fall of 1918, Lillian and her family moved to the mainland so that she and her sisters could attend school.

On the mainland, in Munising, Michigan, a few years later, Lillian met Orville Revord. As she tells it, Lillian and her best friend, Leta, were walking down the Munising City Dock. Some young men were nearby and one of them took note of Lillian's pigtails by commenting, "Well, if this one isn't a cute bunch of 'Onion Tops!'" This teasing remark was the first interaction between the two, who started dating when Lillian was 15.

In 1924, Orville and Lillian eloped and were married in Rapid River, Michigan. Lillian was 17 and Orville was 20. Lillian's friend, Leta and Lillian's cousin James served as witnesses. There were no wedding showers or receptions, Lillian did not have a special wedding dress (just a satin dress she had made for herself for the 4th of July) and the couple's wedding gifts were a pair of pillow cases from Leta and a week's board and room from Lillian's sister, Zeph. As Lillian recalls, the Reverend Kitchen performed the ceremony. Before the ceremony, the Reverend looked up over his spectacles to say to the young couple, "Do you two kids know what you are doing?" Nonetheless, Orville and Lillian were married. Apparently the two did "know what they were doing," as their marriage would ultimately produce five children and last 66 years. As Lillian says, "We had nothing to start a long married career with, but we had our love and commitment and our marriage endured for better or for worse and both categories got a good workout!"

One of the challenges Orville and Lillian would face during the course of their marriage was the Great Depression, which hit five years after they were married. Orville's job on the railroad was whittled down to two days a week and the young couple, already working to raise two children, was surviving on \$11.52 every two weeks. Their two sons, Orville Jr. and Billy, would sit on the sidewalk waiting for their father to come home from work swinging his lunch bucket, which held a piece of a sandwich that Orville Sr. had saved from lunchtime for the two brothers to share. Despite these challenges, the Revord family would persevere and persist during these dark times, a testament to the love and commitment between Orville and Lillian and of their faith.

Throughout her entire life, Lillian has remained a passionate lover of art and an active painter. She was the first Munising artist to be hired by the Munising Woodenware and was the last to be laid off, following the financial demise of her employer. Lillian's artwork has been cherished by locals and visitors to Munising, alike. Today, one can occasionally stumble upon one of her painted antique woodenwares on the Internet, for a considerable price. Lillian also worked for some time as a telephone operator for the Munising Telephone Company, until electronic switching was innovated.

While Lillian has remained active throughout her life pursuing a range of pursuits and challenges, early in life, she did not have the benefit of much formal education. Nonetheless, at the age of fifty, she returned to High School to take courses in typing and drivers' education, another testament to her strength.

Madam Speaker, on Sunday, the Munising community, Mrs. Revord's friends and her family will gather in the basement of the local Methodist Church, a fitting location for a woman who has made faith such a cornerstone of her life. Together, they will congratulate her on her many accomplishments over her many years. As Mrs. Revord's 100th birthday is celebrated, I would ask that you join me in congratulating her and in wishing Mrs. Lillian Revord, her children, Orville, Jr., Raoul, and Joanne and her many grandchildren all the best.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a piece of legislation to enhance two, critical Small Business Administration, SBA, Entrepreneurial Development programs, Small Business Development Centers, SBDCs, and the Service Corps for Retired Executives, SCORE.

Serving as the Representative in a District that has been historically driven economically by vibrant local, small businesses, I greatly appreciate and support the entrepreneurial development assistance that the SBA provides.

We know that entrepreneurial development assistance programs work. Businesses who receive SBA entrepreneurial assistance are twice as likely to succeed. In addition, every Federal dollar spent on entrepreneurial development generates seven dollars in increased tax revenue.

In the past three years, due to changes in our ever-changing globalizing economy, my District has lost 607 small businesses, and 1 out of 5 manufacturing establishments. This is a trend that I am committed to reversing through fostering entrepreneurial development and creating the right set of conditions to help businesses flourish, stay and be attracted to in my District, and I believe that supporting effective small business entrepreneurial development programs is a key part of that strategy.

In 1980, Congress established the SBDC program to foster economic development by providing management, technical and research assistance to current and prospective small businesses. As you know, SBDCs provide services which include, but are not limited to, assisting small businesses with financial, marketing, production, organization, engineering and technical problems and feasibility studies.

SBDCs serve Americans with the desire to start their own venture, but lack the technical expertise associated with starting and running a successful business, and in the past few decades, have provided assistance to millions of entrepreneurs across the United States.

The SBDC program also represents the effective and efficient use of allocated Federal

monies through public/private collaboration to provide necessary technical and mentoring assistance. To that end, SBDCs are funded by matching monies by state legislatures, foundations, State and local chambers of commerce, public and private universities, vocational and technical schools, and community colleges. In fact, sponsors' contributions have been increasingly exceeding the minimum 50 percent matching share, signifying greater participation among such groups and institutions.

This is why I feel especially fortunate to have several Small Business Development Sub-Centers located at local universities, such as Widener University, Kutztown University, and the University of Pennsylvania, Wharton, which provides critical business resources and technical assistance to small businesses in and around my District.

I would like to stress that the core SBDC program has been extremely effective, but there are certain operational improvements that can be implemented to increase flexibility of Small Business Development Centers to better support and serve our local small businesses and our aspiring entrepreneurs.

To that end, changes proposed in this legislation will ensure the quality of grant recipients to host SBDCs; help SBDCs maintain their autonomy from undue SBA interference; protect the confidentiality of SBDC clients; ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent as efficiently as possible by not using SBDC funds except for the sole purpose of business development; and allowing exemptions to the current cap on non-matching portability grants in the event of Federally-designated natural or human-caused disasters.

In addition to these operation changes, it is important to strengthen the SBDC core program, which successfully navigates entrepreneurs in managing their business, by establishing specific grant programs that will allow SBDCs to tailor their services to meet the needs of particular business constituencies.

For instance, the Capital Access Initiative would establish grants to assist entrepreneurs in processing loan applications and obtaining private equity. An Innovation and Competitiveness Initiative would establish grants to allow SBDCs to become "Technology Centers," to help market technologies and advanced projects to manufacturers. A Disaster Recovery Program would establish grants to allow SBDCs to assist and coordinate the Federal response for small business disaster victims.

The Older Entrepreneurial Assistance program will target older Americans interested in transitioning to become business owners, while the Small Business Sustainability Initiative will promote the development and implementation of energy efficient and clean energy improvements and technology. A National Regulatory Assistance Initiative will provide assistance to small businesses to comply with Federal regulatory requirements, and an Affordable Health Care Initiative, will help small business owners provide affordable health care insurance options to their employees.

As I also mentioned, a second program which this legislation will address is SCORE, which provides entrepreneurs with free counseling assistance by former executives. SCORE provides a valuable service to small businesses, and I believe it will be even stronger with a provision to actively recruit volunteer mentors who will greater reflect the so-

cial and economic diversity of those who utilize SBA services, such as women and under-represented minorities.

Again, thank you for allowing me to speak this morning about this important bill, which will greatly enhance the business development resources available to America's small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs.

THAILAND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, on September 19, 2006, the Thai military and police overthrew the elected government of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. At the time, the popularly-elected premier was in New York City for a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

General Boonyaratkalin, leader of the military coup, suspended the constitution and dissolved the Cabinet, both houses of Parliament, and the Constitutional Court.

The Department of State immediately issued a statement saying, "There's no justification for a military coup in Thailand or in anyplace else . . . we certainly are extremely disappointed by this action. It's a step backward for democracy in Thailand."

Following the military coup, the United States suspended \$24 million in bilateral assistance to the Thai government.

Now eight months after the military coup, despite promises by the military leaders to the contrary, Thailand still has not drafted a permanent constitution, held a referendum, or called for elections.

In addition, Thailand seized American patents in clear violation of international law.

On December 30, 2003, the United States Government designated Thailand as a major non-NATO ally. This status gives Thailand a range of benefits, preferred American lending, participation in military exercises and preferential bidding on Department of Defense contracts.

A military dictatorship that disposes an elected government and then seizes American intellectual property should not be considered a major non-NATO ally.

Therefore, today I am introducing the Thailand Democracy Act of 2007 to push Thailand's military government to hold democratic elections.

Under this legislation, the President is required to terminate Thailand's status as a major non-NATO ally until he can certify to the Congress that democracy has been restored to the Thai people. I urge my colleagues to condemn the continued military rule of Thailand and support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING CLYDE TIDWELL ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, in this day and age, it is very unusual for a person to work in a company for 40 or 50 years.